

Appendix K

Screening Criteria Checklist for South Dakota Field Office Ten Year Grazing Permit or Lease Renewals or Transfers

To find if a proposed grazing lease renewal or transfer is applicable, the following screening criteria would be applied. If the answer to every question here is NO, the proposed renewal or transfer qualifies and NEPA compliance can be achieved by preparing a Documentation of NEPA Adequacy form which references the South Dakota RMP EIS and/or previous site-specific permit renewal environmental analysis. However, if the answer to any question is Yes, the proposal represents an exception and site-specific analysis would be prepared.

1. Do any of the Departmental Categorical Exclusion Exception Criteria apply?

Would the proposed action:

- Have significant adverse effects on public health or safety?
- Have adverse effects on such unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources, park, recreation or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, sole or principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, floodplains, or ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the Department's National Register of Natural Landmarks?
- Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources?
- Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?
- Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?
- Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects?
- Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Place?
- Have adverse effects on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species?
- Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).
- Threaten to violate a Federal, State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?
- Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).
- Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).

2. Has the allotment proposed for renewal or transfer been determined not to be meeting Range Health Standards?
3. Will the proposed renewal or lease have a change in class of livestock, change in season of use greater than 14 days, or a change in terms and conditions?
4. Will the active use (AUMs) previously authorized be exceeded by the proposed renewal or transfer?
5. Would the proposed renewal or transfer negatively impact sage-grouse wildlife habitat (general habitat, PHMA or winter range)?
6. Would the proposed renewal or transfer negatively impact any nesting raptor, or known Threatened or Endangered species habitat?
7. Does available monitoring data show rangeland health standards are not being met, vegetative conditions are not acceptable, or allotment objectives are not being met?

You should be able to provide documentation or rationale to support all No answers if necessary.

Refer to Chapter 2 Narrative Section for additional information on Addressing GRSG RMP Amendments/Revisions Objectives in Grazing Permits/Leases